

Writers' Histories

This essay is often written during the first week of English 134 – although some instructors require students to revisit and revise it at the end of the quarter. For this assignment sequence, students are asked to reflect on their experiences and define themselves as writers, often for the first time. The essays in this section explore the importance of developing an effective composition process, the challenges of writing, and the sense of accomplishment that results from the advancement of their skills. Consider the various strategies employed by these writers for framing and unifying their discussions—a literary image, a memorable assignment, or references to teachers and courses. What principle would unify your history as a writer?

Ultimately, these students are assessing their own abilities as writers so they can better understand the work that awaits them in English 134. As you read, consider your own experiences with writing. How do you see yourself as a writer? How did you become the writer you are today? What new challenges will arise now that you are writing for a college audience?



Noodle Boy, Descending

A student's legs seem to "noodle" as he descends the stairs at Poly's Kennedy Library. Some students feel jittery as they approach writing assignments; others view their histories as writers as a series of ups and downs. What sort of photograph would represent your writer's history?